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- Microdus fulvescens*, Cress., det. Ashm. Mesilla Valley; Santa Fé.  
*M. divisus*, Cress., det. Ashm. Mesilla Park, April 16, on foliage of *Populus*.  
*Orgilus flaviceps*, Ashm. MS. Mesilla, June 24.  
*Cremnops vulgaris*, Cresson. Santa Fé; Mesilla Valley; San Augustine Ranch.  
*Agathis tibiator*, Prov., det. Ashm. Mesilla Park, Sept. 12, on *Isocoma wrightii*.  
*Agathirsia neomexicana*, Ashm. MS. Mesilla, Aug. 26, hovering over *Sphæralcea lobata*, Wooton.  
*Meteorus politus*, Prov., det. Howard. Las Cruces, in winter.  
*M. agrotidis*, Ashm. MS. (type from California). Mesilla, June 6, at light.  
*M. indagator*, Riley, det. Ashm. Santa Fé, Aug. 1.  
*M. vulgaris*, Cress., det. Ashm. Mesilla, May; Santa Fé, Sept., bred from *Halisidota maculata* cocoons.  
*M. communis*, Cress., det. Ashm. Mesilla, April 22, at light.  
*Aspidogonus* (*Diospilus*) *alfalfæ*, Ashm. MS. Mesilla, end of August; Las Cruces, September.  
*Opius nanellus*, Ashm., det. Ashm. Las Cruces, August.  
*Phædotoma sanguinea*, Ashm., det. Ashm. Mesilla; reared from fruit of *Solanum elæagnifolium*.  
*Nosopæa polita*, Ashm. MS. Las Cruces, June 4.  
*Lysiphlebus eragrostaphidis*, Ashm. Mesilla Park, on *Helianthus*, Sept. 8, 1893.  
*Lipolexis rapæ*, Curtis, det. Ashm. Santa Fé, July 16.
- In addition, the following genera have been taken in New Mexico, but the species have not yet been identified, and are doubtless mostly undescribed: *Blacus*, *Iphiaulax*, *Scelio*, *Inostemma*, *Telenomus*, *Caloteleia*, *Labeo*, *Mesitius*, *Tetrastichus*, *Metopon*, *Liothorax*, *Metapachis*, *Decatoma*, *Trigonura*, *Leucospis*, *Ceroptres*, *Solenaspis*, *Ptenus*.

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## SOME NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF SOUTHERN KANSAS.

BY J. R. MEAD, WICHITA.

Read before the Academy October 27, 1897.

The writer has observed a rapid decrease in bird life in southern Kansas. Both migratory and summer-resident species, particularly those used for food, are included in this statement, the most noted exceptions being blackbirds and orioles.

At the time of the early settlement of south-central Kansas the great abundance of bird life was a noted feature of the landscape, especially in springtime. Several varieties very numerous in their northward journey were never seen on the return trip. Such was the case with the Eskimo curlew, of which millions passed northward to their nesting grounds, while none ever returned this way. The first birds to appear in the spring were ducks, canvasbacks and redheads coming with the first thaw in February. A little later came gray geese and other ducks; and when the grass had started white geese came in great numbers, a sign that spring would stay. Beautiful white swans also came our way, in both the spring and fall migrations. Then the family of *Anatidæ* were so numerous that they destroyed whole fields of wheat, and parties of hunters would kill a wagon load in a day, while now they are rarely seen.

Prairie-hens, quite common before the settlement of the country, rapidly increased for a few years, until the building of railroads brought the market hunters. They are now almost exterminated. A migratory movement of both prairie-chickens and quail was noticed.

Wild turkeys, once abundant in the state, are now entirely exterminated. They wandered from place to place through a wide range of country, but were not migratory. Eskimo curlews have not been seen for several years.

Some of our smaller birds are increasing in numbers. Orioles have increased to such numbers that they are a serious nuisance in vineyards and orchards, driving their sharp bills into every ripe apple, peach, or grape that they see. The owner of one vineyard bought 3000 loaded shells at one time, and employed two men constantly to shoot birds. Another used thirty pounds of No. 10 shot in one day, and claimed to have killed bushels of orioles. Others kill many of them by placing poisoned water in their vineyards.

Orioles build their hanging nests in the swaying branches of the numerous cottonwood groves. They commence drifting southward during the latter half of August, stopping at every orchard or vineyard. By the middle of September all have gone south—perhaps to Central America.

For many years I have observed that a number of our migratory birds follow the direction of the Arkansas valley and river, going northwest in the spring and returning southeast in the fall. Crows in great numbers ascend the course of the river in the spring, feeding along the fields as they go, and return late in the fall, gleanings as they leisurely journey. They winter in the country of the black-jack acorns. Who knows where they nest?

Blue jays go southeast about the middle of September in long, straggling flocks. Hawks have their day about the 25th of October, vast numbers passing over in the course of two or three days. They sail slowly along without any attempt at order, and evidently come from great distances, since so many of them alight on trees and fences to rest. Of late years wild geese remain at the north until a severe "norther" drives them south *en masse* in a single night.

Pelicans are the last of the large migrating birds to migrate. They go north about the middle of May, moving along like an army. I have seen three divisions of about 500 each, abreast and in almost perfect line, about 100 yards apart.

It would be interesting to follow our birds to their winter homes, along the Gulf coast, the West Indies, or in Central and South America. In the course of a winter trip to Galveston I saw immense flocks of blackbirds in the timber a hundred miles from the Gulf; but I saw no other land birds except an occasional robin on Galveston island. Texas is as barren of bird life in winter as is Kansas.